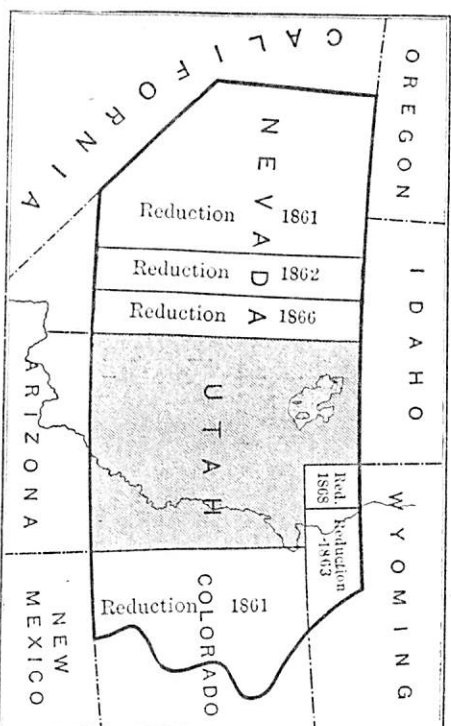


XVII.

THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD.

1861-1865.

Utah Cut Down.—Just before the beginning of the Civil War, Utah parted with that portion of her domain out of which Congress created the Territory of Nevada. It was March 2nd, 1861, when President Buchanan affixed his signature to the Act organizing that Territory. Nevada's eastern limit, which became Utah's western boundary, was placed at the thirty-ninth meridian from Washington.*



During the same year the Territory of Colorado came into existence, Eastern Utah and parts of other Territories being

*Western Utah, which became Nevada, had then been occupied for about ten years; Hampden S. Beatie, building the first house at Genoa, while on his way to the California gold fields. He was followed by the Reese Brothers from Salt Lake City. Within a few years farmers, stock raisers, miners and merchants, from both East and West, began to settle along the Carson River. Early in the "fifties" it was proposed to annex that region to California, and later an effort was made to induce Congress to change the name Utah to Nevada, and remove the seat of government to Carson County. Before and after that time there were movements for the formation of a new Territory. The discovery of the great Comstock Mine, in June, 1859, largely increased the "Gentile" population, who objected to being "governed from Salt Lake City." In November, 1860, following the example of the founders of Deseret, they elected a Governor and Legislature and petitioned Congress for a Territorial government. The prayer was granted, and the Territory of Nevada was the result.

taken for that purpose. Utah's eastern limit was then fixed at the thirty-second meridian.*

Boundaries Redefined.—At the next session of the Legislature following the organization of Nevada, the boundaries of Utah were redefined. The counties then numbered eighteen, namely: Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, Utah, Tooele, Juab, Sanpete, Millard, Iron, Beaver, Washington, Kane, Morgan, Box Elder, Cache, Wasatch, Summit and Green River.†

More Southern Colonization.—A visit by President Young and other leading men to the southern part of the Territory, in May and June, 1861, resulted in a renewal of colonizing activities in that region. During the latter part of the year several hundred families from Northern and Central Utah settled in Washington County. Orson Pratt and Erastus Snow had charge of the mission. The town of St. George, named after George A. Smith, was located at that time.

Iron and Cotton.—Two important home industries were then struggling for existence, namely, the manufacture of iron at Cedar City, and the raising of cotton on the Rio Virgen. Two hundred thousand dollars were expended in the production of iron, when it was found that the ore, though rich, would not flux, and the enterprise had to be abandoned. Cotton had been raised in Northern Utah as early as 1851, and four years later cotton seed from the Southern States was planted in the valley of the Santa Clara; the result being the first cotton fabric produced in the Territory. During 1858 Joseph Horne, heading a colony from Salt Lake City, established a cotton farm on the Rio Virgen, and in 1862 cotton mills began to appear at Parowan and other places. These industries received an impetus from the Civil War, the blockading of Southern ports by the Northern fleets having caused a scarcity of cotton fabric throughout the country. Part of the raw product

*In 1862 another decree was given to Nevada, and in 1866 still another; these also being taken from Utah. When Nebraska and Wyoming were organized, the former in 1861, the latter in 1868, each was given a piece out of the northeastern corner of this Territory. These changes reduced Utah to her present dimensions.

†Morgan County, founded in the spring of 1855, had been named for its pioneer, Jedediah Morgan Grant, at that time one of the first Presidency of the "Mormon" Church. Box Elder and Cache counties were created during the following winter. The first settlers of Box Elder were William Davis, James Brooks, and Thomas Pierce, who in 1851 laid the foundations of Brigham City. Cache County had no settlement at the time of its creation, but in July, 1856, its pioneer, Peter Maughan, chose a site for Maughan's Fort afterwards named Wells-ville in honor of General Daniel H. Wells. Kane County, called after Colonel Thomas L. Kane, was organized in 1856 out of a portion of Washington County. Wasatch County was settled in 1859 by families from Provo and Nephi.